



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. Turns Over 5 UH-1H Helicopters to the Armed Forces of the Philippines

At a ceremony at Villamor Airbase in Pasay City today, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. turned over five newly refurbished UH-1H or Huey helicopters to Lt General Oscar H. Rabena, Commanding General, Philippine Air Force. The turnover is part of the long-term commitment of the United States Government to assist the Philippine military's modernization program.

"The aircraft you see today will increase the Philippine Air Force's capability to move troops and supplies to counter threats of terrorism. They will also help humanitarian relief efforts by increasing the Philippine Air Force's capability to conduct search and rescue operations and deliver critical emergency relief supplies in times of natural disasters and calamities," said Ambassador Thomas.

The five aircraft represent the final installment of helicopters pledged for the Philippines by former U.S. President George W. Bush under the Excess Defense Articles program of the U.S. Government. Ten Hueys were initially turned over in 2007.

Before they were delivered to the Philippines, all helicopters were refurbished in the U.S. by US Helicopter/BellAero under the Foreign Military Financing program at a cost of approximately 973,060,000 pesos.

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